

ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

Published under the auspices of the : World Council of Churches · International Missionary Council
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations · World Young Women's Christian Association
World's Student Christian Federation · World Council of Christian Education · United Bible Societies

EDITOR : JOHN GARRETT · 17 ROUTE DE MALAGNOU · GENEVA · SWITZERLAND
TEL. 36 71 30 · CABLES OIKOUMENE
U.S. ENQUIRIES: 156 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 10, N. Y., USA

No. 28/25th Year

July 18th, 1958

On Other Pages

Conversations Between Methodists and Anglicans Reported	Page 2
Scottish Christians Urged to Understand Secular Life.	Page 3
Anglicans, Orthodox Hold Informal Talks	Page 4
TV Interview Not Cause of Greek Absence from Lambeth.	Page 4
United French-Speaking Theological School for Africa?	Page 5
Poland's Lutherans Oppose Contacts with Catholicism	Page 6

Special Report

Debate on Nuclear Armament Stirs Swiss Churches	Page 7
---	--------

Archbishop Michael, WCC President, Dies in New York

(New York) - His Eminence Archbishop Michael, a president of the World Council of Churches since 1954, and head of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America, died on July 13 in Doctor's Hospital, New York City, of a heart attack following an operation. Funeral services for the 67-year-old churchman were held in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York on July 17.

He was elected archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America in 1949 and was the spiritual leader of a million Americans of Greek descent and of an estimated five million communicants of Eastern Orthodox Churches in the Western Hemisphere.

Archbishop Michael had served his church in various administrative capacities. He was locum tenens of the Metropolitan District of Maronia, Western Thrace, Greece, from 1919 to 1923, and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Athens and All Greece from 1923 to 1927. He was then transferred to London, where he was Dean of the Greek Cathedral of St. Sophia from 1927 to 1939. For the next ten years, before his election as archbishop, he held the rank of Metropolitan of the ancient Diocese of Corinth. Archbishop Michael was born in 1891 in the province of Maronia of Western Thrace, Greece.

At the second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois, in 1954, Archbishop Michael was elected one of the council's seven presidents.

The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian Movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items. EPS may be freely reproduced in any form with acknowledgment.

The presidents of the World Council of Churches are elected by the WCC's Assembly from various churches and countries to show the extent and variety of the council's constituency. Presidents who die during their term of office between assemblies have been replaced by action of the council's Central Committee.

E.P.S., Geneva

Conversations Between Methodists and Anglicans Reported

(Newcastle, England) - A "parallelism-within-unity" for the Methodist Church in Great Britain and the Church of England is suggested by an interim report on conversations between the two churches, made public last week at the annual Methodist Conference, meeting in Newcastle.

Nothing short of organic union should be the final goal, the statement said, while recommending parallel entities. It was suggested that Methodists should incorporate the episcopacy into their church and that the ministries of both churches should be unified. But, the statement said, an earlier suggestion that leading Methodist ministers be consecrated as bishops and future Methodist ministers be ordained by bishops would not be acceptable to the Methodist Church. "The one fatal objection to church reunion would be any requirement of the reordination of its ministers which would in fact be a denial of Methodism's place in the Catholic Church," the report said.

The interim statement has been referred to Methodists for their consideration and for the consideration of joint meetings of the two churches.

The conversations have been going on during the last two years, at the request of the Church of England and the Methodist Conference. Among those taking part were Dr. G.K.A. Bell, former Bishop of Chichester, and Professor Norman Sykes of Cambridge University, Anglican, and Dr. Harold Roberts, principal of Richmond College, and Dr. Gordon Rupp, Manchester University, Methodist.

The commission points out that there has been "blindness and sin on both sides" in the past, but says it believes that it has been "led by Providence" and has carried out its work with a deep underlying unity.

Common grounds of agreement are reviewed and the statement says that "both churches accept and use the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion as divinely appointed means of grace".

Stress is put on the hallmarks of the Methodist Church - the doctrines of sanctification and assurance, the theology of the Wesleyan hymns, the place of laymen, the itinerant Methodist ministry.

The report states that the episcopacy is of little value taken apart from the continuity of Scripture, the rule of faith and sacraments. "What we are inviting Methodists to do is not to adopt a third or fourth century model of episcopacy, any more than the eighteenth century English model, but to join in a search for what episcopacy might become for us and our children."

The commission says that it agrees that the episcopacy of the future should be "constitutional" in the sense that provision should be made for cooperation of the laity, and the Church of England members say that "the exercise of the ministry of the Methodist Church has been manifestly owned and used by God for His glory in converting sinners and perfecting saints".

In discussing the report, Dr. Roberts told the Methodist Conference that they must realise that full unity would not come simply by grafting episcopacy on to Methodism. Inter-communion, he added, must be a stage, but only a stage, toward realising the full union of the two churches.

Opponents of the statement said that to introduce episcopacy would alter the whole character of Methodism, and closer relations could only be acceptable to the Methodist Church if they were based on complete mutual regard for each other's systems.

In other action, the conference named Dr. Eric W. Baker as next year's president. Professor C.A. Coulson of Oxford is vice-president. This year's officers are Dr. Norman H. Snaith, principal of Wesley College, Headingley, Leeds, and Mr. J.M. Gibbs of Penarth.

In a speech to the conference, Mr. Gibbs said that in an age when the air was alive with speech and pictures, the Church was still tapping away at a defective transmitter and being picked up fitfully, weakly and with distortion.

"Is it unfair to say that if one were to set about to devise a collection of factors unhelpful to the spreading of the Gospel one could not assemble them more successfully than the Church seems to have done today?" he asked. Church-going seems to have a social rather than a religious function, he said, being more concerned with keeping the family chapel open than with taking the Gospel to those outside.

E.P.S., Geneva

Scottish Christians Urged to Understand Secular Life

(St. Andrews) - "The occupational disease of religious people is pharisaism - withdrawing from the world or superiority towards it," the Rev. Alan Booth, London secretary of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, told the summer conference of the Scottish Churches' Ecumenical Association at St. Andrews, Scotland. "We must try to understand and respect the world that God so loved," he said.

The meeting on "The Secular World and the Churches" heard two addresses describing the world of daily life in Scotland; the first from Miss Milly Docherty, who works in the telecommunications department of the Post Office, and the second from a worker in the dockyard at Rosyth, Mr. Jim Littlejohn.

Miss Docherty said that with good prospects of promotion, good welfare services and a stable family life, civil servants could lead a wholesome, satisfying life in which there seemed little need for religion or for spiritual or cultural values. Mr. Littlejohn described the frequent concern of the craftsman in big industry to provide an education for his children that would free them from suffering under most people's prejudices against manual work and give them jobs that were not threatened by the possibility of recurring unemployment.

In one of the series of addresses he delivered to the conference Mr. Booth declared that it was difficult for workers of all kinds today to find time to pray and that new ways of worship had to be found to meet the real needs of the modern world. He suggested that old and infirm people had a special task in setting aside more time to pray than others.

The Rev. Colin Day, organising secretary of last year's successful "Kirk Week" in Aberdeen, said that spiritual revival was always present in the Church, but that although the Holy Spirit was "lashing down on us like rain we all put our coats on in case we get wet".

The conference, which was chaired by Mr. F.T. Connell, heard reports on the work of the British Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, and made plans for furthering local Christian cooperation in Scotland.

E.P.S., Geneva

IMC Theological Fund Names Officials

(New York) - No grants will be made by the new Theological Education Fund of the International Missionary Council during its first year of operation, according to a decision of the international committee administering the fund.

Dr. Charles W. Forman, associate professor of missions at Yale Divinity School, has been named associate director of the Theological Education Fund by the committee. Dr. Charles W. Ranson, former general secretary of the IMC, is the chief administrative officer of the fund.

The Theological Education Fund was set up by the Ghana Assembly of the International Missionary Council in January in order to take advantage of a gift of \$2,000,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., matched by an equal sum from nine major U.S. mission boards.

Beneficiaries of the fund are to be selected from strategically located seminaries for the training of the ministry in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Dr. Forman, a 41-year-old former missionary to India, will begin his work with the fund by taking an extensive trip to Africa later in the year for an on-the-spot survey of seminaries on that continent.

Born in India of missionary parents, Dr. Forman taught at North India United Theological College, Sahranpur, Punjab, from 1945 to 1950. Dr. Forman has also worked with share-croppers in Mississippi, with refugees, and with young people in Cuba. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister with a Ph.D. in history.

Dr. Forman's appointment was made at the recent meeting of the TEF committee in Montreal, Canada.

The committee adopted a statement stressing the fact that "we must not provide endowments or make others continually dependent on the essentially short-term help we can give".

E.P.S., Geneva

Anglicans, Orthodox Hold Informal Talks

(London) - Representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of the Russian, Rumanian and Bulgarian churches took part this month in informal conversations with Anglican bishops gathered in London for the Lambeth Conference (see EPS No. 27).

After discussing ways to promote theological talks between the two churches, the representatives sent a report to the Lambeth Conference that said "relations between Orthodox and Anglican churches must continue to draw our attention", and suggested that theological talks between Orthodox and Anglican theologians, begun in 1931 and continued in 1935 and 1956 "be resumed in the near future". The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev. Michael Ramsay, was the chairman of the group.

Orthodox representatives were officially received by the Lambeth Conference on Saturday, July 6, and the head of each delegation greeted the conference.

E.P.S., Geneva

TV Interview Not Cause of Greek Absence from Lambeth

(London) - Earlier reports that the withdrawal of delegates of the Church of Greece from the opening session of the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops was provoked by the Archbishop of Canterbury's statements about Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus (see EPS No. 26) have been denied by the Church of England Council on Foreign Relations.

"The telegram cancelling the visit of the delegates from Greece to the opening ceremonies of the Lambeth Conference was received some hours before the Archbishop of Canterbury's television broadcast took place," said Canon Herbert Waddams, the Council's secretary, "and therefore had nothing to do with what he said on that occasion".

Following the withdrawal the Church of Greece had asked the Archbishop of Thyateira, exarch in Western Europe of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, who is resident in London, to attend on its behalf, but after the Archbishop of Canterbury's television interview this request was also withdrawn. E.P.S., Geneva

United French-Speaking Theological School for Africa?

(Douala, Cameroons) - Plans are in hand for the founding of a united French-speaking theological institution to serve the whole of French-speaking Central and West Africa.

A conference of nine churches and missions from six French-speaking African territories held last month decided to try to implement two stages of a plan to establish the seminary, which will teach at university level. The first stage would provide for the setting up of a seminary at Yaounde in the Cameroons by 1960 or 1961 and the second for a further seminary to serve the Belgian Congo and possibly Angola.

The proposals of the conference, which followed up a similar meeting at Leopoldville in 1956 and a meeting on training for the ministry held after the first all-Africa Christian conference at Ibadan, Nigeria, in January 1958, will be sent to all churches and missions in French-speaking Africa with a request for support. Funds will be sought in Europe and America.

The new plan does not call for the closing of existing theological schools, which would continue to prepare students at pre-university level.

A conference to report on progress is proposed for 1959. E.P.S., Geneva

Bishop Newbigin Speaks in Berlin

(Berlin) - Christianity is penetrating Indian society as "a silent revolution", Bishop Lesslie Newbigin of the Church of South India told an interconfessional meeting in Berlin last week.

Old church traditions have become out-of-date, he said, and pointed out that early church workers in India were regarded as "slaves" because of their modest social background. But today, he said, they are treated with respect.

Bishop Newbigin was in Germany for theological discussions on questions of Christian unity and was one of the theologians and ecumenical leaders attending an ecumenical study conference in Berlin from July 7 - 9.

The bishop, who is also president of the International Missionary Council, said that the Church of South India rejects the temptation to regard its orders as fixed and final.

Professor Gensichen of Heidelberg, a former missionary in India, cited the Church of South India as an example of the fact that union is not brought about by absorbing smaller churches, by larger churches dictating conditions, by adding together the elements present in the different churches or by watering down beliefs to the lowest common denominator. Instead, he said, union is a process which releases new spiritual forces and where the unity of the Church is practised.

The conference was set up by President Kurt Scharf, of the Council of the Evangelical Church of the Union. Others attending included Bishop Friedrich-Wilhelm Krummacker of Greifswald, Provost Heinrich Grüber of the German Evangelical Church, and Dr. W. Haendly, who represented the Roman Catholic Bishop of Berlin. E.P.S., Geneva

Poland's Lutherans Oppose Contacts with Catholicism

(Warsaw) - The Polish national committee of the Lutheran World Federation has opposed the setting up of the LWF's suggested Institute for the Study of the Confessions.

"The proposal to open the institute for the study of Roman Catholic theology and the Roman Catholic Church is for us a purely theoretical matter which cannot promote better understanding with Catholicism," the Polish group says at the end of a long statement commenting on the project. The LWF had asked for reactions from its member churches.

The Polish churches say they already know what they need to know about Roman Catholicism "both from its publications and from daily contact". They have told the LWF that they regard any attempt to reach understanding with the Roman Catholic Church as likely to be fruitless, and say they fear anxiety and suspicion would be aroused among the federation's minority churches which are "struggling for survival" if the institute were opened. "Church diplomacy," they declare, "could only weaken the Protestant front and diminish the confessional awareness of our fellow-Christians".

Current problems in contacts with Catholicism in Poland are described as mixed marriages, funerals, baptisms, religious instruction and the restoration of Protestant church properties used by the Roman Catholic Church after the war. According to the Polish Lutherans, negotiations on these points are difficult because the Church of Rome conducts them on the assumption that the Evangelical Church of the Augsburgian Confession is not to be regarded as a church at all since it lacks priests and the apostolic succession. E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

Bibles in 300 languages are on sale at the Protestant Pavilion at the Brussels Exhibition, and during the fair's first ten weeks, Bibles, Testaments and Gospels were sold in 48 languages. The Belgian Bible Society reports receiving many orders from foreign visitors who had read the free pamphlets also being distributed at the exhibition.

* *

A study on "Christians and the Prevention of War in the Atomic Age" has just been finished and submitted to the Council of the French Protestant Federation by its Ecumenical Study Commission. Directed by Professor Etienne Trocmé, the commission was made up of pastors, professors, chaplains and army officers. A study on Christian responsibility in areas of rapid social change was also presented, reporting on a 1957 study among African Protestants in the parts of Western and Equatorial Africa under French influence.

* *

Bishop Albert Bereczky of the Hungarian Reformed Church, and Bishop Lajos Vetö, Lutheran, have been elected officers of the Hungarian Peace Council.

* *

At the Lambeth Conference now in session in London, Bishop Otto Dibelius spoke on ways of promoting contact between the different confessions in Europe. He expressed the hope that the ecumenical movement would give rise to ideas and impulses "which will help to create something new in the social and political life of the nations, something far greater than all the atheistic attempts to change the world by force". It was the first time that a German bishop had ever been invited to address the Lambeth Conference.

* *

Issahag Ghazarian, who had been designated bishop-elect of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Athens, has been required by the Greek government to leave the country and is at present in London. Although a majority of the Armenian community in Athens is opposed to him, he claims he has been legally appointed as bishop by the supreme authorities of his church in Echmiadzin and has appealed to the Greek government against his deportation.

* *

Dr. H.W.K. Mowll, the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, has been named chairman of the executive committee sponsoring next year's visit of evangelist Billy Graham. In preparation for the crusade, a chain of Australian radio stations are now regularly broadcasting Dr. Graham's "Hour of Decision" programmes. Others on the sponsoring committee are Bishop Co-adjutor R.C. Kerle, Dr. Alan Walker, Methodist, and the Rev. Gordon Powell, Presbyterian.

* *

Ground has been broken for the five million dollar Alaska Methodist College in Anchorage. The ceremonies took place just before the US Congress voted to make Alaska the forty-ninth state. The school will be the first church-related, four-year liberal arts college in Alaska.

* *

A group of 8,000 young Baptists attending the Fifth Baptist World Youth Conference in Toronto, Canada, have condemned legislation in South Africa that might prevent Africans and whites from worshipping together in churches. The motion was presented by the Rev. L.G. Tudor of Cape Town. "We cannot agree that the access of worship depends on the permission of any state authority," the motion said.

* *

The Bible is being exhibited in thirteen pavilions at the Brussels Exhibition, according to the United Bible Societies, including the Hungarian, Russian and Czechoslovakian buildings.

E.P.S., Geneva

Special Report

Debate on Nuclear Armament Stirs Swiss Churches

(Geneva) - The Swiss churches are vigorously debating proposals to introduce nuclear weapons into the Swiss Army. Before the Swiss cabinet recently in principle approved nuclear armament, controversy had already been going on for some time in the Swiss Protestant Federation and in the various regional church bodies.

At its June meeting the Assembly of the federation, after a warm but inconclusive discussion, appointed a committee of experts and a theological study commission to report to a special full meeting in the next few months.

The federation's concern has since been reflected in many of the governing bodies of the cantonal churches. Wide publicity has been given in the churches to the appeal of Albert Schweitzer calling for a halt to nuclear tests. Statements by the well-known theologians Emil Brunner and Karl Barth have also set the stage for a brisk and widespread exchange of views. Brunner warned against the dangers of absolute pacifism as possibly paving the way for the coming of war. Barth, taking a different view, said: "It is not a question of principles, ideologies or systems. It is a question of life and death." He went on to say that people in both East and West should rebel and take a stand against "the

madness which is running amok". A stand of this kind would, he said, become a political fact of importance and governments and the press would have to take notice of it.

The division of opinion has led church bodies to seek clarification of the issues by experts. The Cantonal Synod of Basel, after a full afternoon session on the problem, called for a special synod in September to be addressed by a representative of the Swiss Army. Objections that introduction of atomic weapons into the Swiss forces might endanger Swiss neutrality were not endorsed by the synod until it could hear from the army on the subject.

The synods of the churches of the Cantons of St. Gall and of Aargau have also considered special meetings. The Aargau church rejected the proposal on the casting vote of its president after a heated exchange of views.

A resolution drawn up by the social study commission of the Reformed Pastors' Federation supported "the protest of scientists". "We must ensure," the resolution read, "that under no circumstances or conditions will any more atom bombs be exploded in East or West either in war or peace". The pastors expressed regret that the appeal of Albert Schweitzer was not recognised with one accord as the voice of the Church.

In Geneva fifty-three citizens, including fifteen pastors, have signed a protest against arming the Swiss forces with atomic weapons, calling the proposal "an act of madness". Drawing attention to the effects of unleashing nuclear power in this way as catastrophic for the whole of mankind, this group said that "Switzerland, through its neutrality, is today one of the few nations which is in a position to make a real appeal for peace. Let us realise our privilege by rejecting preparations for total war ... Switzerland must now take definite action, otherwise it will betray its finest traditions. If we have the courage to say why we take it this step of insight and liberty will act as an effective counter to the present despair psychosis and be a contribution to the coming of a true international community."

Others in French-speaking Switzerland have taken the same line.

E.P.S., Geneva